DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 437 216 PS 028 213

TITLE	Family Characteristics of 6- to 12-Year-Olds. Indicator of the Month.
INSTITUTION	National Center for Education Statistics (ED), Washington, DC.
REPORT NO	NCES-2000-004
PUB DATE	2000-01-00
NOTE	3p.; Extracted from "The Condition of Education 1999."
AVAILABLE FROM	ED PUBS. Tel: 877-433-7827 (Toll Free). For full text: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfor.asp?pubid=2000004>.
PUB TYPE	Numerical/Quantitative Data (110)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Children; Educational Attainment; Employed Parents; *Family Characteristics; Family Structure; Mothers; One Parent Family; Siblings

ABSTRACT

Noting that the family environment in which a child lives affects many aspects of that child's life, including school performance, this "Indicator of the Month" from the National Center for Educational Statistics presents data on family characteristics for 1972-1997. In addition to data tables, key findings are summarized: (1) educational attainment of parents of 6- to 12-year-olds increased substantially between 1972 and 1997; (2) the employment rate of mothers of 6- to 12-year-olds rose from 39 percent in 1972 to 66 percent in 1997, whereas the employment rate for fathers decreased slightly; (3) the percent of 6- to 12-year-olds who lived with only their mother increased from 12 to 24 percent between 1972 and 1997, and conversely, the percentage who lived with two parents decreased from 87 to 71 percent during the same period; and (4) in 1997, 6- to 12-year-olds had fewer other children in their household than their peers in 1972. (HTH)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Family characteristics of 6- to 12-year-olds

January 2000

ED 437 216

The family environment in which a child lives affects many aspects of that child's life, including school performance. For example, research has shown that family characteristics, such as parents' educational attainment, number of children in the family, family income, and mother's employment status, are related to student achievement. Data on such family characteristics may help policymakers and educators to apply resources efficiently and to develop programs designed to increase learning.

- The educational attainment of parents of 6- to 12-year-olds increased substantially between 1972 and 1997. For example, the percentage whose mothers completed at least high school increased from 66 to 84 percent, while the percentage whose fathers completed at least high school rose from 65 to 85 percent.
- The employment rate of mothers of 6- to 12-year-olds increased between 1972 and 1997, rising from 39 percent in 1972 to 66 percent in 1997. The employment rate of fathers decreased slightly from 93 percent in 1972 to 91 percent in 1997. Despite the increase in mothers' employment, median family income (in constant 1997 dollars) remained relatively stable between 1972 and 1992 and increased between 1992 and 1997.
- The percentage of 6- to 12-year-olds who lived with only their mother doubled between 1972 and 1997, increasing from 12 to 24 percent. Conversely, the percentage who lived with two parents decreased from 87 to 71 percent during the same period.
- In 1997, 6- to 12-year-olds had fewer other children in their household than their peers in 1972. For example, in 1972, 71 percent of 6- to 12-year-olds had two or more brothers or sisters, compared with 46 percent in 1997.

Percentage distribution of 6- to 12-year-olds, by selected family characteristics: 1972–97

Selected family characteristics	1972	1977	1982	1987	1992	1997
Mother's highest education level						
Less than high school diploma	34.3	29.5	23.6	20.4	18.0	15.8
High school diploma or GED	47.6	47.4	48.0	45.9	38.8	34.8
Some college	10.8	13.4	16.5	18.9	26.1	28.8
Bachelor's degree or higher	7.2	9.8	12.0	14.8	17.2	20.5
Percentage of children whose mothers were employed	38.5	45.5	52.1	58.1	61.2	66.4
Percentage of children whose fathers were employed	93.1	91.0	88.9	90.3	89.1	91.2
Family type						
Two-parent household	86.8	81.2	77.1	74.9	72.8	71.4
Father as head of household	1.0	1.2	1.8	2.4	3.0	4.2
Mother as head of household	12.3	17.6	21.1	22.7	24.1	24.4
Number of other children in household						
0–1	28.8	46.4	50.1	52.3	53.5	54.5
2–3	46.7	40.8	41.0	40.8	39.8	39.5
4 or more	24.4	12.8	8.9	7.0	6.7	6.1

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. Information on parents' educational attainment, employment status, or age of mother at child's birth is available only for those parents who live in the same household with their child. In 1994, the survey instrument for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. Percentages for employment status were based on the total population, not just those in the labor force. Details may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

PS 028213

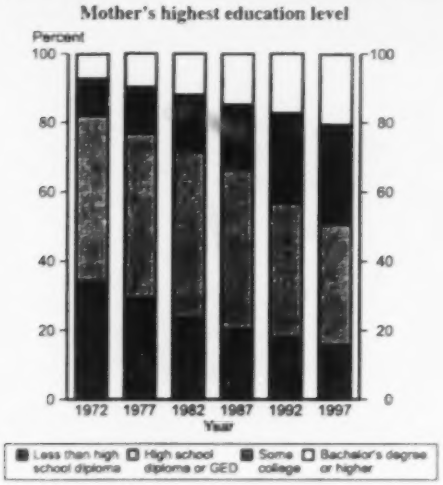
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

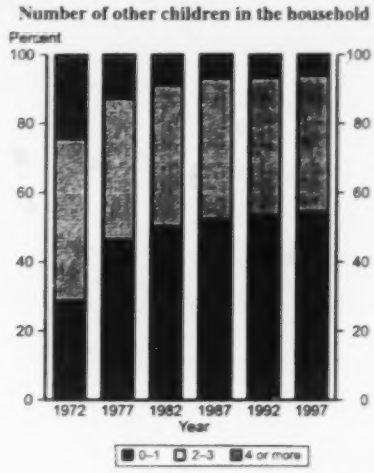
U.S. Department of Education

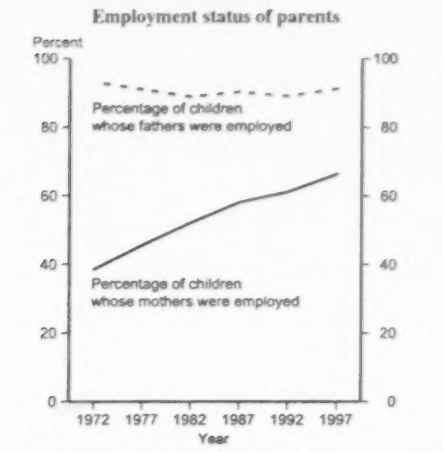
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
NCES 2000–004

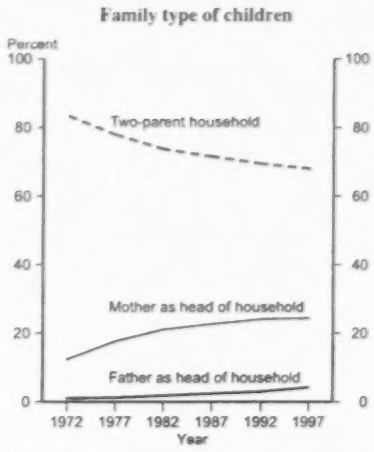
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Percentage distribution of 6- to 12-year-olds, by family characteristics: 1972–97









NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) questions used to obtain educational attainment were changed in 1992. Information on parents' educational attainment, employment status, or age of mother at child's birth is available only for those parents who live in the same household with their child.

In 1994, the survey instrument for the CPS was changed and weights were adjusted. Percentages for employment status were based on the total population, not just those in the labor force.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, March Current Population Surveys.

This indicator is one of 60 from *The Condition of Education 1999*. It is in the public domain and may be reproduced without permission. Suggested citation: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *The Condition of Education 1999*, NCES 2000–004, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. To obtain a copy of the full volume of *The Condition of Education 1999*, contact ED Pubs at (877) 433-7827 (e-mail: edpubs@inet.ed.gov). The full indicator and all supplemental tables pertaining to this indicator may be viewed at http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2000004.

United States
Department of Education
Washington, DC 20208–5650

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, $300

Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. Department of Education
Permit No. G–17

FIRST CLASS